

REMARKS

I. Election Partly With Traverse

In Response to the Restriction Requirement dated March 23, 2006, Applicants' elect Group 1(b), claim 1-10 and 18-19, drawn to isolated polynucleotides encoding a variant of osmosensing histidine kinase from *Botryotinia fuckeliana* (SEQ ID NOS: 13, 1 and 2), and corresponding host cells.

This election is made partly with traverse, in that examination of SEQ ID NO: 14, which is a polynucleotide that encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 13, is requested in this Application.

II. Amendments to the Claims

To facilitate examination, Applicants provide herewith an amended set of claims canceling non-elected subject matter. Additional amendments have been made for clarity.

Specifically, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 are amended, and claims 15-22 are canceled.

After entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-14 will be pending in the application, of which claims 1-10 will be under consideration.

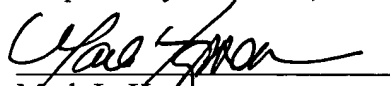
Claims 11-14 will be withdrawn, but rejoinder may be requested at an appropriate time.

No new matter has been introduced.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Applicants retain the right to file one or more divisional Applications directed to non-elected subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,


Mark L. Hayman
Registration No. 51,793
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SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER